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SUBJECT: DEMARCHE DELIVERED ON PRIORITIES FOR 12TH SESSION
OF HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL

REF: STATE 93374

1. (SBU) Deputy PolCouns delivered reftel demarche on U.S. priorities for the 12th session of the UN Human Rights Council (HRC) to MFA UN Division Director Ahmed Farooq on September 14. Since Farooq normally covers security issues and is only temporarily responsible for the human rights portfolio because of a staffing gap, he was not familiar with some of the prospective resolutions for the HRC session. Commenting on a possible freedom of expression resolution, he told Deputy PolCouns that Pakistan would come to a common position with other OIC member states. In any event, the Pakistanis believe there should be some limits on freedom of expression to ensure religious sensitivities are not harmed. Farooq pointed to the Danish cartoons case as an instance where freedom of expression led to a law and order problem for Pakistan.

2. (SBU) Regarding resolutions Pakistan might sponsor at the session, Farooq expected Pakistan would introduce an OIC-supported resolution on defamation of religion.
PATTERSON